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FILE: 5259-11101

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Derrick Brown

MS PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled "SPINAL DISC IMPLANT" -- Marino et al., 5259-11100US01

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a disclosure including a title page, a 15 page specification, 3 pages of claims (Claims 1-20), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included drawings on 8 sheets (figures 1-18). The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of James F. Marino, David J. Krueger and Erik J. Wagner for the above-entitled invention.

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/422,688 entitled "Spinal Disc Implant" filed October 31, 2002. The above-referenced provisional application is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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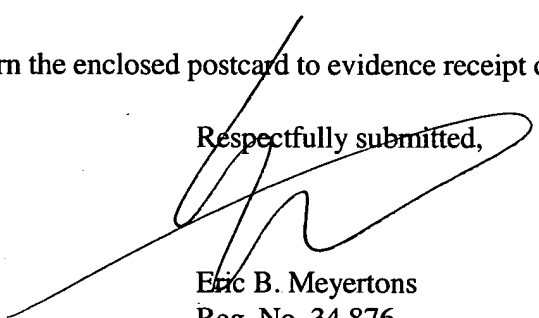
Please note that this application is filed without an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned Applicant representative.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to customer number 35690:

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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures